

**I CLAIM AS MY INVENTION:**

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1. A ventilator comprising:  
an inspiratory unit;  
an expiratory valve;  
a control unit for controlling said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to regulate a flow of breathing gas by generating a recruitment phase with an elevated basic pressure for said breathing gas, with a plurality of breaths superimposed at an increased breathing rate.
2. A ventilator as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit controls said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to produce said elevated basic pressure in a range from 10 to 80 cmH<sub>2</sub>O.
3. A ventilator as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit controls said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to generate said superimposed breaths at a pressure in a range from 1 to 10 cmH<sub>2</sub>O.
4. A ventilator as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit controls said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to generate said increased breathing rate in a range from 50 to 200 breaths/minute.
5. A ventilator as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit controls said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to set said increased breathing rate as a percentage of a predetermined normal breathing rate.
6. A ventilator as claimed in claim 5 wherein said control unit sets said percentage to a percentage in a range between 110% and 1000%.
7. A ventilator as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit controls said inspiratory unit and said expiratory valve to generate said recruitment phase for a duration in a range between 10 to 100 seconds.

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